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Digital Evidence Procedures Manual	Effective Date: 22-January-2008

### 11 COMPARATIVE ANALYSES

# 11.1 Purpose

This document contains the procedures for photographic or image comparisons. To individualize persons or objects depicted in images through a comparison of class and individual identifying characteristics. These individualizations of persons in images is based on comparing features such as freckle patterns, scars, tattoos, imperfections in teeth, moles, dimples, wrinkle patterns, ear patterns, accidental disfigurement or other appropriate features. The identification of objects is based on individual identifying characteristics such as tears, stains, holes, gouge marks, wear, bleach marks, rust patterns, markings and defects produced in the manufacturing process, and post-production alterations.

### **11.2** Scope

The principle behind these comparisons is the same as that behind the comparison of fingerprints, footwear impressions, firearms identifications or any other kind of physical evidence-the principle of individualization.

### 11.3 Materials and Equipment

The following equipment and materials may be utilized:

- Computer hardware and software
- Conventional and digital cameras
- Scanners
- Approved graphics viewer software
- Various magnification devices
- Permanent markers
- Acetate sheets

#### 11.4 Limitations

None for this procedure

# 11.5 Safety

None for this procedure

#### 11.6 Procedures

- 11.6.1 The evidence will be received in accordance with the Department's evidence handling procedures (see Section 20 in the Quality Manual).
- 11.6.2 The equipment to be utilized will be selected based on the type of evidence to be compared.
- 11.6.3 The object or person of interest in an unknown image will be compared with a known image of the suspected object or person. This may be a side by side comparison of printed media, an overlay of images on a computer of a variation of theses techniques. Individualized characteristics may be used to effect or exclude identification; however, due to the nature of the evidence and the limitations of technology, the examination may prove to be inconclusive.
- 11.6.4 The proper documentation will be retained in accordance with the Department's documentation procedures (see Section 13.8 of the Quality Manual).

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# 11.7 References

LEVA Forensic Video Analysis: Photographic/Video Comparison

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Russ, John C. <u>The Image Procession Handbook</u>. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 1996.

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